

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute claims 1-39 with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-executable method for editing a spreadsheet formula, the method comprising:
  - activating a first cell;
  - selecting a second cell in response to user input;
  - determining automatically by a computer whether a reference to said second cell conforms to a predetermined syntax for entry into a formula in said first cell based on ~~operators~~ and operands in the formula whether the predetermined syntax allows a cell reference in an active portion of the formula; and
  - when it is determined that the reference to said second cell does not conform to the predetermined syntax,
  - automatically terminating formula editing by the computer.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - displaying a formula toolbar when said formula is edited.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
  - closing said formula toolbar when said formula is no longer being edited.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said formula toolbar comprises:
  - at least one mathematical operator.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said formula toolbar comprises:  
at least one function operator.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising:  
displaying a function dialogue when said function operator is selected.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
entering said reference in said formula in response to determining that said reference conforms to the predetermined syntax for entry into said formula in said first cell.
8. (Currently Amended) A computer-executable method for formula editing, the method comprising:  
selecting a cell;  
determining automatically by a computer whether a reference to said cell conforms to a predetermined syntax for entry into a formula in another selected cell; and  
when it is determined that the reference to said cell does not conform to the predetermined syntax for entry into the formula based on ~~operators and operands in the formula~~  
whether the predetermined syntax allows a cell reference in an active portion of the formula,  
automatically terminating formula editing.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said entering comprises: displaying a formula toolbar.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 further comprising:  
entering the editing mode in response to a user inputting a formula initiator.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said entering comprises: displaying a  
formula toolbar.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-executable method for formula entry, comprising:  
activating a formula entry area;  
obtaining an input from a user;  
determining automatically by a computer whether said input conforms to a predetermined  
syntax for entry into a formula in said formula entry area based on ~~operators and operands in the~~  
~~formula~~ whether the predetermined syntax allows a cell reference in an active portion of the  
formula; and  
automatically terminating formula editing in response to determining that said input does  
not conform to the predetermined syntax for entry into said formula.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said formula is a search query.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-executable spreadsheet formula editor,  
comprising:

a first activation device configured to activate a first cell;

a selection device configured to select a second cell in response to user input;

a determiner configured to determine whether a reference to said second cell conforms to a predetermined syntax for entry into a formula in said first cell based on ~~operators and operands in the formula~~ whether the predetermined syntax allows a cell reference in an active portion of the formula, wherein the determiner is embodied in a computing device; and

a termination unit configured to terminate formula editing in the first cell in response to said determiner determining that said reference to said second cell does not conform to the predetermined syntax for entry into said formula in said first cell.

15. (Original) The spreadsheet formula editor of claim 14 further comprising:  
a formula toolbar wherein said formula toolbar is displayed when said formula is edited.

16. (Original) The spreadsheet formula editor of claim 15 wherein said formula toolbar is closed when said formula is no longer being edited.

17. (Original) The spreadsheet formula editor of claim 15 wherein said formula toolbar comprises: at least one mathematical operator.

18. (Original) The spreadsheet formula editor of claim 15 wherein said formula toolbar comprises: at least one function operator.

19. (Original) The spreadsheet formula editor of claim 18 further comprising: a function dialogue wherein said function dialogue is displayed when said function operator is selected.

20. (Previously Presented) The spreadsheet formula editor of claim 14, wherein said reference is entered in said formula in response to said determiner determining that said reference to said second cell conforms to a predetermined syntax for entry into said formula in said first cell.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-executable formula editor, comprising:  
a selection device configured to select a cell;  
a determiner device operatively configured to determine whether a reference to said cell conforms to a predetermined syntax for entry into a formula in another selected cell based on ~~operators and operands in the formula~~ whether the predetermined syntax allows a cell reference in an active portion of the formula, wherein the determiner is embodied in a computing device;  
and  
an editing mode configured to be exited when it is determined that the reference to said cell does not conform to the predetermined syntax for entry into the formula.

22. (Original) The formula editor of claim 21 wherein said mode selector comprises: a display unit configured to display a formula toolbar.

23. (Previously Presented) The formula editor of claim 21, wherein said editing mode is configured to be entered in response to a user inputting a formula initiator.

24. (Original) The formula editor of claim 23 wherein said second mode selector comprises: a display unit configured to display a formula toolbar.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-executable formula editor comprising:  
an activation device configured to activate a formula entry area;  
an input device operatively configured to receive an input from a user;  
a determiner configured to determine whether said input conforms to a predetermined syntax for entry into a formula in said formula entry area based on ~~operators and operands in the formula~~ whether the predetermined syntax allows a cell reference in an active portion of the formula, wherein the determiner is embodied in a computing device; and  
a termination unit configured to terminate formula editing in response to said determiner determining that said reference to said second cell does not conform to a predetermined syntax for entry into said formula in said formula entry area.

26. (Original) The formula editor of claim 25 wherein said formula is a search query.

27. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer program product comprising:  
a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to edit a spreadsheet formula, said computer program product comprising:  
computer readable code configured to cause a computer to activate a first cell;  
computer readable code configured to cause a computer to select a second cell in response to user input;

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to automatically determine by the computer whether a reference to said second cell conforms to a predetermined syntax for entry into a formula in said first cell based on ~~operators and operands in the formula~~ whether the predetermined syntax allows a cell reference in an active portion of the formula; and

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to terminate formula editing in said first cell when it is determined that the reference to said second cell does not conform to the predetermined syntax for entry into said formula in said first cell.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 27 further comprising: computer readable code configured to cause a computer to display a formula toolbar when said formula is edited.

29. (Original) The computer program product of claim 28 further comprising: computer readable code configured to cause a computer to close said formula toolbar when said formula is no longer being edited.

30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 28 wherein said toolbar comprises: at least one mathematical operator.

31. (Original) The computer program product of claim 28 wherein said toolbar comprises: at least one function operator.

32. (Original) The computer program product of claim 31 further comprising: computer readable code configured to cause a computer to display a function dialogue when said function operator is selected.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 27, further comprising:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to enter said reference in said formula when it is determined that said reference conforms to the predetermined syntax for entry into said formula in said first cell.

34. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer program product comprising:  
a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to edit a formula, said computer program product comprising:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to select a cell;

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to automatically determine whether a reference to said cell conforms to a predetermined syntax for entry into a formula in another selected cell based on ~~operators and operands in the formula~~ whether the predetermined syntax allows a cell reference in an active portion of the formula; and

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to automatically terminate an editing mode when it is determined that the reference to said cell does not conform to the predetermined syntax for entry into the formula.



35. (Original) The computer program product of claim 34 wherein said computer readable code configured to cause a computer to enter comprises: computer readable code configured to cause a computer to display a formula toolbar.

36. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 34, further comprising computer readable code configured to cause a computer to enter the editing mode in response to a user inputting a formula initiator.

37. (Original) The computer program product of claim 36 wherein said computer readable code configured to cause a computer to enter an editing mode, if a user inputs a formula initiator comprises: computer readable code configured to cause a computer to display a formula toolbar.

38. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer program product comprising:  
a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein  
configured to edit a formula, said computer program product comprising:  
computer readable code configured to cause a computer to activate a formula entry area;  
computer readable code configured to cause a computer to obtain an input from a user;  
computer readable code configured to cause a computer to automatically determine  
whether said input conforms to a predetermined syntax for entry into said formula in said  
formula entry area based on ~~operators and operands in the formula~~ whether the predetermined  
syntax allows a cell reference in an active portion of the formula; and

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to terminate editing in said formula entry area in response to determining that said input does not conform to the predetermined syntax for entry into said formula in said formula entry area.

39. (Original) The computer program product of claim 38 wherein said formula is a search query.